

42 446 (13) NORTHWICH

Northwich Urban District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1952.

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NORTHWICH :

W. HOBSON & SON, LTD., PRINTERS.



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# Northwich Urban District Council.

## Health Report for 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich  
Urban District Council.

Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1952.

### SECTION A.

#### STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,137 acres
Population — Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,920
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,467
Rateable Value (1952)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£128,873
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£501

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

			Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	{	Legitimate ..	234	123	111	{	Birth Rate per 1000 of the esti-
		Illegitimate ..	13	8	5		mated resident population
							14·59
Still Births	{	Legitimate ..	3	—	3	{	Rate per 1000 total (live and
		Illegitimate ..	—	—	—		still) births
							12·00
Deaths..	..	..	..	220	125	95	Death Rate per 1000 of the esti-
							mated resident population
							13·00
							After adjustment by the Comparability
							Factor
							13·00

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1000 live births	..	..	..	..	28·34
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	25·64
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	76·92

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	40
„ „ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	—



The following table compares the main statistics for 1952 with the years 1941-1951:—

Year.	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tubercu- losis
1941.	18,690	.. 15.14	.. 11.28	.. 48.44	.. 28	.. 13
1942.	18,290	.. 15.14	.. 11.31	.. 57.76	.. 33	.. 9
1943.	18,130	.. 18.42	.. 12.18	.. 47.90	.. 32	.. 7
1944.	18,070	.. 17.43	.. 14.27	.. 41.26	.. 40	.. 13
1945.	18,130	.. 19.02	.. 13.67	.. 60.86	.. 32	.. 8
1946.	19,150	.. 21.14	.. 12.95	.. 46.91	.. 38	.. 13
1947.	19,580	.. 20.02	.. 11.54	.. 40.81	.. 32	.. 1
1948.	19,230	.. 18.09	.. 11.18	.. 28.73	.. 41	.. 9
1949.	18,810	.. 17.33	.. 12.59	.. 39.87	.. 28	.. 8
1950.	18,330	.. 13.64	.. 13.42	.. 32.00	.. 40	.. —
1951.	17,160	.. 14.10	.. 15.09	.. 45.45	.. 39	.. 4
1952.	16,920	.. 14.59	.. 13.00	.. 28.34	.. 40	.. 2

### CAUSES OF DEATH — 1952

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ...	1	1	2
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ... ..	2	—	2
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough... ..	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections .. ...	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	—	—	—
8. Measles .. ...	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ... ..	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	7	2	9
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus... ..	5	1	6
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms... ..	12	7	19
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ... ..	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	14	18	32
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	22	6	28
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	1	1	2
20. Other heart disease ... ..	19	26	45
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	5	6	11
22. Influenza ... ..	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia ... ..	6	1	7
24. Bronchitis ... ..	8	2	10
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	—	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	—	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis... ..	3	3	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ...	—	1	1
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	10	7	17
33. Motor vehicle accidents... ..	2	1	3
34. All other accidents ... ..	3	2	5
35. Suicide .. ...	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—	—
TOTAL	125	95	220

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### (A) Provided by the District Council.

##### (1) Staff.

W. S. Slater, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts, the County Council and the North and Mid- Cheshire Hospital Man- agement Committee).
Clerical Staff.	1 person (whole-time).	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts).
T. Baines, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods.	Senior Sanitary Inspector.	(Northwich Urban Dis- trict Council only).
F. Johnson, M.S.I.A., Cert R.S.I. Meat and other Foods.	Additional Sanitary Inspector.	-do-
F. Lamb.	Junior Assistant	-do-
G. Dutton	Junior Clerk	-do-

##### (2) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Northwich Urban District Council, proved adequate during the year. In addition, this Service has co-operated in the transport of the samples twice monthly from this area. Details of the samples and specimens are given later in the report.

##### (3) Environmental Services.

Details of the other Services, e.g. Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Northwich Urban District Council are recorded later in this report.

#### (B) Isolation Hospital Services.

Davenham Isolation Hospital, under the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee provided Hospital treatment for the area's infectious cases and during the year admitted 35 patients from the Northwich Urban District.

**(C) Provided by the County Council.**

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Urban Area under the following Services:— School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Paediatric, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, etc., etc.

**(D) Provided by the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council).**

The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council) provided the following Services:—

**(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes.**

The work done during the year 1952 in the Northwich Urban District is detailed as follows.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**

No. of children who have completed treatment during 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	179
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

In addition, 263 booster injections were given.

The percentage of children under the age of five years known to have received this protective treatment is	...	...	...	...	...	...	39%
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**Vaccination against Smallpox.**

No. of persons who have been vaccinated during 1952	109
---	-----

**Immunisation against Whooping Cough.**

No. of children who have been treated during 1952	...	76
---	-----	----

As to the immunisation against whooping cough, this has not been unduly pushed as its efficacy, though likely to be good, has not yet been fully substantiated. It seems likely that in the near future there will be introduced on the market a combined prophylactic which will safeguard children from both whooping cough and diphtheria. When this has been fully proved to be both safe and effective, I feel sure that the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee will make it available for use by the local doctors. This will enable the course of treatment against both diseases to be reduced from five injections, as at present, to three.

The protective treatments against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox remain a free service under the National Health Service Act.

**(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service.**

The service in the area has dealt with Northwich Urban patients expeditiously and without serious complaint throughout the year.



(c) **Prevention of Illness — Care and After Care.**

A variety of medical equipment and comforts were provided for the use of the sick in a number of homes during the year.

(d) **Domestic Help Service.**

Domestic Helps have been provided during 1952 in 35 households in the Northwich Urban District. The kind of cases assisted included confinement, old age and tuberculosis, etc.

## **SECTION C.**

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

**Water Supply.**—The water services are under the control of the Mid & South East Cheshire Water Board.

During the course of the year, the Water Board has submitted to me, for information, 27 copies of the Analyst's Reports of samples of water taken in the Northwich Urban District; all of them were reported upon as satisfactory.

**Swimming Bath.**—The water in the baths has been maintained in a satisfactory condition during 1952. Three samples of the swimming bath water submitted to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination were reported upon satisfactorily.

The total number of bathers using the swimming baths during the 1952 season was 45,438. This figure includes members of the public, organised parties of school children and in-patients of a nearby Miners' Rehabilitation Centre, etc.

**Drainage, Sewage & Sewage Disposal.**—A preliminary survey of the town sewers has been carried out and a report submitted to the Council for consideration. It is quite evident that when this matter is dealt with, extensive works of major reconstruction will be required to remedy some of the sewerage difficulties of the Town.

**Rivers Pollution.**—There is no change to report here, except to refer to the scheme now in course of preparation for the re-sewering of the Town and additional sewage disposal facilities.

Since this work must coincide with "lifting" of the centre of the Town and the proposed new development in accordance with the proposals of the County Planning Authority, progress can only be slow in dealing with schemes of such magnitude.

**Closet Accommodation.**—No conversions of pail-closets to the water-carriage system were carried out during the year. As a result of a progressive policy during previous years, the number of pail-closets in the District is now only 45.

These will be still further reduced in number as properties are dealt with under the Housing Act, 1936.

**Schools.**—The County Education Committee are responsible for school premises in the district.

Owing to the limitations of capital expenditure, it has not yet been possible to provide at some of the older schools the amenities which should be readily available. Such amenities should include the provision of hot and cold water, better sanitary conveniences and improved playgrounds.

**Factories.**—There is complete co-operation with H.M. Inspector of Factories and, when circumstances allow, it is anticipated that improved conditions for workers will be provided.

Fortunately, the firm employing the greatest number of workers in the district is very progressive and has done much to further the welfare and comfort of their employees. Whilst this does set a very high standard, it is one which other employees can be asked to attain.

**Public Cleansing.**—Mr. Baines, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

“The collection of refuse still continues to be very satisfactory.

The labour position was easier and the staff of workmen improved by obtaining the services of younger men. With the replacement of two old and obsolete 7 cu. yd. vehicles by two 10 cu. yd. vehicles, it has been possible to maintain both a regular weekly service and include other duties, which had previously been carried out in overtime, e.g. collection of kitchen waste. It is interesting to note that during the twelve months it was not necessary to work any overtime on the work of collecting refuse.

In the disposal of refuse, a considerable improvement was apparent. Only on one occasion was there a fire on the refuse tip and this was dealt with before any serious nuisance could occur.

In September a Chaseside Light Excavator was delivered and with the acquisition of some 2,000 tons of sand and clay, the Manchester Road Tip was effectively sealed.

As outlined in last year's report, a new tipping site was acquired. This land is ideally situated for the convenience of the Castle and Winnington areas, and will eventually provide a good open space. From a working point of view, it is a very difficult site, the soil is mainly clay, with small pockets of sand, and the whole area is waterlogged. Without mechanical equipment, it would be impossible to carry out any tipping in such a manner so as not to be a nuisance.

From a salvage point of view, the outstanding feature was the collapse of the high prices being paid for paper salvage and the limitation of sales. It is rather interesting to note that compared with last year, the amount of salvage increased in weight, but de-



creased in price. Another large feature was the large increase in kitchen waste. I consider this was mainly due to the fact that this commodity was collected in normal working hours instead of during overtime.

If, during the coming year, paper salvage can regain some stability—by that I mean an economic price with a market to take all the paper available—this section of the cleansing service can again regain its former importance. The only satisfactory means of disposing of paper refuse is by salvage, and the income derived keeps down the costs of this most essential service. It would be a most popular move if petrol and diesel oil, used in refuse vehicles, could be freed from tax. This would immediately reduce the cost of a service which every local authority has to undertake, and from the very nature of the work the vehicles are uneconomical in the use of petrol.

The experience of the year 1952 emphasizes that the Council's policy of providing dustbins out of the local rate is a correct one. Difficulties were encountered in obtaining good quality dustbins owing to a steel shortage, but as supplies improve a uniformity of good dustbins throughout the district will be possible. It is far easier from an administration point of view to supply a dustbin when it is required, rather than to go through a difficult legal procedure to decide who is responsible for supplying a dustbin to a particular house.

Perhaps the most pleasing feature in this section of the work was the commencement of the building of the new depot. There is no doubt that this is long overdue and when available one feels that a service which can now be regarded as satisfactory will become even more efficient.

The figures for salvage collected and disposed of during 1952 are as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ... ..	165	0	2	1722	0	1
Salvage, other than Waste Paper	156	5	0	615	13	1"

**Recreational and Open Spaces.**—There have been no new developments during the year, other than tree planting on the Council's Housing Estates.

In various open spaces throughout the town, the Parks Superintendent made colourful and attractive floral displays.

**Offensive Trades.**—It has not been necessary to take any action during the year in connection with offensive trades. The Rag and Bone Dealer, as he was known in the past, no longer exists in Northwich. It is true that metal dealers exist and there is one dealer in rags; the few bones which are available from the butchers' shops are collected and disposed of elsewhere.

**Rodent Infestation.**—Mr. Baines, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

“The policy of the Council in dealing with Rodent Infestation reflects itself by the smoothness with which this work is carried out.

A free service is available to all householders for the treatment of any rat and mice infestation. In addition, the Council has contracts for regular servicing at 18 business premises in the district. The result of this is that immediate action takes place if any infestation is either found or reported and no time is lost or wasted in the serving of notices. The effectiveness of all the work carried out is shown by the absence of any infestations in the area. When one realises that a town situated like Northwich could be an ideal harbourage for rats and mice, it is proof enough that the money spent on this service is worth while.

There are two members of the staff spending a portion of their time on this work, but as the circumstances change, it will be better for greater efficiency for one man to act as a whole-time Rodent Operator.

During 1952, a total of 57 private dwellings and 10 Local Authority premises were treated on one or more occasions for rat and mice destruction.

With the improvement in tipping conditions, the refuse tips showed a great improvement in rat infestation. It is quite true to say that at the end of 1952 it was not possible to find any evidence of rat infestation on either of the two tips.

Although the sewers throughout the district were test-baited for rats, they were found to be free from infestation. The sewage works at Winnington were regularly treated and from results obtained the conditions which exist are satisfactory.”

**Common Lodging Houses.**—The only two premises of this character have been closed; one has been demolished and the other will be during the coming months.

**Canal Boats.**—Two new canal boats were registered during the year. There are now 32 boats registered with this Authority.

**Licensed Camping Sites.**—There are no licensed camping sites in the Northwich Urban District. On land used as a fairground, there are several dwellers who were formerly show people. In view of changed circumstances they no longer travel and because of housing shortages cannot obtain the tenancy of a house. In order to regularize the position, the caravans were licensed for twelve months and the position is to be reviewed at the end of that time.

Difficulties also still exist in another part of the district, in an area referred to in previous reports. It is possible that this area will



change ownership and if the negotiations now taking place are successful, the land affected will be free for the first time for years from being a nuisance by hawkers and gipsies.

**Disinfestation of Premises.**—Every encouragement is given to the public to report all types of insect pests, and not only is advice given, but a disinfestation service is provided free. It may be thought that some charge should be made, but it is found, in practice, that when the local people can have a free service and a feeling that the matter is treated confidentially, they are pleased to come forward and ask for our assistance.

75 premises were treated during the year.

**Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.**—The purpose of this Act, which came into force on 1st November, 1951, is to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles and other articles which are stuffed or lined. There is only one factory affected in the district and this is registered.

# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

## Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

(Based on Statement made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Nature of Inspections made	Num- ber.	Number of Notices served		Result of Service of Notices.			
		Statu- tory.	Infor- mal.	Notice compli- ed with	Remai- ning in hand.	Prosecutions	
						Institu- ted	Pend- ing
1. Dwelling Houses .. ..	2574	..	151	163	27	..	..
(general inspection) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Cellar Dwellings .. ..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Back-to-Back Houses .. ..	243	2	2	2	..	2	..
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ..	—	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Courts, Yards, Passages ..	40	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Pail Closets .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Cesspools .. ..	187	..	68	68	..	..	..
8. House Drainage .. ..	10	..	4	4	..	..	..
9. Ditches, Watercourses .. ..	38	..	25	25	..	..	..
10. Offensive Accumulation .. ..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Keeping of Animals .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12. Offensive Trades .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13. (a) Slaughterhouses (Public) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
,, (Private) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Other Places where food is produced or sold .. ..	606	..	26	20	6	..	..
14. Piggeries .. ..	4	..	2	2	..	..	..
15. (a) Dairies .. ..	8	..	1	1	..	..	..
(b) Cowsheds .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Milkshops .. ..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
16. (a) Factories .. ..	150	..	7	7	..	..	..
(b) Workshops .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Workplaces .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(d) Outworkers' Premises ..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
17. Bakehouses (Overground) ..	47	..	9	9	..	..	..
18. Common Lodging Houses ..	13	1	1	2	..	..	..
19. Houses let in Lodgings .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20. Smoke Nuisances .. ..	24	..	4	4	..	..	..
21. Canal Boats .. ..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
22. Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits .. ..	69	..	..	..	..	..	..
23. Miscellaneous (including Rats and Mice .. ..	775	..	..	..	..	..	..
	4839	3	300	307	33	2	..

## FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	15	10	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..	95	140	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Total .. ..	110	150	7	—

## CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ..	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. ..	2	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	3	3	—	2	—
TOTALS ..	6	6	—	5	—

## SECTION D. HOUSING.

**Provision of New Houses.**—130 permanent houses were erected and occupied during the year on the Council's Leftwich Housing Site, situated in the adjoining Rural District. 7 shops and dwellings were completed on the Manor Park Estate and 2 houses were erected by Private Enterprise.

**Housing Act, 1936.**—During the year 40 dwellings were represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and 3 under Section 12. The tenants of these properties were re-housed by the Council and the demolition is proceeding.

In furtherance of its post-war effort to offer decent housing accommodation to the Town's residents who live in sub-standard properties, the Council has most commendably, in my opinion, made a useful proportion of all its new houses available for slum clearance purposes. The new houses had to be sited in the adjoining Rural District and this has entailed a certain loss of rateable value, but the loss should not occur indefinitely in view of the forthcoming revision of the Urban Boundary.

Another housing problem is that of improving houses which are just too good to demolish and yet, from an owner's point of view, it would be uneconomic to provide the amenities which a fit house should possess. It is difficult to see any real solution. Possibly one answer would seem to be for local authorities to purchase blocks of this type of property and, after carrying out necessary repairs and improvements, to house small families at reduced rents.

The amount of building taking place in and about Northwich is such that often labour and materials are not available. However, some progress is being made in getting owners to carry out repairs and in some cases good improvements, such as the provision of hot water and bathrooms, take place.

It has not been necessary during the year to serve any statutory notices in connection with repair work.

## SECTION E. INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—Northwich Urban District Council remains the responsible Authority for the registration of milk distributors and their dairies, except when the distributor is also a milk producer.

There are 20 milk distributors operating in Northwich and 1 registered dairy.



The Northwich Urban District Council is also responsible for granting licences authorising milk distributors to use the special designations "Tuberculin Tested", "Accredited" and "Pasteurised".

The following licences were granted to milk distributors in 1952:—

- 7 licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 6 licences to sell Pasteurised Milk.

Supplementary Licences:—

- 6 licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 7 licences to sell Pasteurised Milk.

At Castle Park Dairies there is a Pasteurising Plant which is licensed by the Cheshire County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority.

**Milk Sampling.**—During the year under review, 62 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, as follows:—

			Satisfactory	
6	Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	6	
14	T.T./Pasteurised Milk	...	14	
36	Pasteurised Milk	...	34	— 2 unsatisfactory
6	Ungraded Milk	...	5	— 1 unsatisfactory

(There is no legal standard for ungraded milk and the 1 ungraded sample was considered unsatisfactory by comparison with the standards laid down for raw graded milk).

In addition, 14 samples were submitted for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. All samples proved negative.

When one compares the standard of cleanliness of milk to-day with that of some years ago, the improvement is most marked. Whilst it may be claimed that this is due in part to work done by Health Departments, much of the credit should go to those men and women engaged in the Trade itself. It must be disheartening to the many keen traders we have in the Town who go to great trouble and expense to provide their customers with cool, safe, clean milk in a sparkling bottle, to see it after delivery being left out on the customer's doorstep in the hot sun and liable to be soiled by dogs, flies and dust. Another legitimate complaint the trader has is the misuse to which his bottles are put prior to their return.

(b) **Ice Cream.**—Ice Cream still continues to be a popular commodity and is no longer a summer refreshment, but consumed, often as part of a meal, all the year round. At Northwich, the manufacture and sale of ice cream is controlled by the Council, which is responsible for the administration of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, and the appropriate sections of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year, 1 new registration was granted and the position at the end of 1952 was as follows:—

Registered premises for the sale only of ice cream	...	...	47
Registered premises for the sale and manufacture of ice cream			3
			—
Total	...	...	50
			---

The Methylene Blue test is still employed as an indicator of cleanliness of ice cream, and during 1952 34 samples were submitted for laboratory examination, with the following satisfactory results:—

Grade I	...	...	...	...	31 samples
Grade II	...	...	...	...	1 sample
Grade III	...	...	...	...	0 samples
Grade IV	...	...	...	...	0 samples
No Coliform Isolated	...	...	...	...	1 sample
Report Void	...	...	...	...	1 sample

### (c) Food Inspection

(i) **Meat and Meat Products.** — The private slaughterhouses were closed in 1939 and subsequently all slaughtering was transferred to Winsford. All meat has, therefore, to be transported into Northwich from the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse and Depot at Winsford.

Whilst many of the duties of the Council's Meat Inspectors consist of routine visits and inspections, it is surprising how often they are specially called upon for advice.

As and when the Meat Trade is freed from rationing, serious consideration will have to be given to the adequacy of the slaughtering facilities for the district.

(ii) **Fried Fish.**—There are 22 registered premises for the frying of fish. During the year several businesses have changed hands and changes of registration have been effected.

(ii) **Bakehouses.**—The 30 bakehouses in the district are satisfactory and steps are taken at every opportunity to bring about improvements wherever necessary.

47 routine inspections were made during the year.

(iv) **Other Foods.**—During 1952 a total of 2 tons 11 cwt. 68 lbs. of food of all kinds was condemned or surrendered as unfit by traders at local shops, cafes and canteens.

Whilst the amount of food condemned shows an appreciable increase on last year, it illustrates the vigilance being paid to this important duty.

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Northwich Urban District during the year 1952:—

Name of Sample.	Number obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Borax ... ..	1	—
Cod Liver Oil ... ..	1	—
Coffee & Chicory Essence ...	1	—
Dragees (Silver) ... ..	1	—
Eucalyptus Oil ... ..	2	—
Fish Paste ... ..	1	—
Glycerine ... ..	1	—
Ice Cream ... ..	3	—
Laxative (Liquid) ... ..	1	—
MILK (Fresh) ... ..	38	1*
Pepper (White) ... ..	1	—
Rice (Ground) ... ..	1	—
Soda (Bicarbonate) ... ..	1	—
Soup (Chicken Noodle) ... ..	1	—
Syrup ... ..	1	—
Whiskey ... ..	1	—
Total ... ..	56	1

\* This one sample was taken from a retailer and served from a tap at the bottom of the churn. The sample was certified as being deficient in fat to the extent of 18.6 per cent and was undoubtedly due to the seller failing to keep the milk fully stirred. This was confirmed by the fact that another sample taken out of an ordinary churn (without a tap) at the same time, proved to be genuine. The seller was cautioned.

It is very satisfactory to note that, with the exception of the above, all the samples were found to be **genuine** in the Northwich Urban District.

(v) **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**—One licence was renewed for the Slaughter of Animals, the number now in operation being 3.

(vi) **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**—The Senior Sanitary Inspector was appointed as authorised officer under this Act, which came into force on 1st April, 1952.

There are two premises in the district licensed as pet shops.



## SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, with the exception of Measles, was low, as may be gathered from the following table:—

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	TOTAL DEATHS
Scarlet Fever ... ..	31	30	—
Acute Pneumonia ... ..	9	—	7
Erysipelas ... ..	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis:			
Paralytic ... ..	3	3	—
Measles ... ..	238	—	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	44	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	1	1	—

Copies of reports on all pathological specimens submitted by the local Doctors to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory are received by me. These are of great value in that immediate preventive measures can be put in hand by the Health Department where needed.

(2) **TUBERCULOSIS.**

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

New Cases and Mortality during 1952.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-25 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 „ ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45-55 „ ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 „ ...	3	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	7	1	—	2	1	1	—	—



During 1952, 11 cases were admitted to and 13 discharged from Sanatoria.

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:—

1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
160	165	175	185	182	176	146	151	146	137	101	106

**B.C.G. Protection against Tuberculosis.**—B.C.G. vaccination of contacts to cases of tuberculosis in the Northwich Urban District has been carried out during the year as follows:—

At the Local Chest  
Clinic by the Chest  
Physician.

6

At St. Mary's Hospital,  
Manchester, to new-  
born Babies.

11

### (3) **DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.**

The disinfection of 42 homes and other premises was carried out during the year, as follows:—

For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding) ...	9
For Infectious Diseases, etc. ... ..	33

I would like to say, in closing this report, how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1953.

N.B.—By the time this report is printed, the removal of the combined Divisional and M.O.H. Office from its present quarters at Whitehall to Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, where other County Health Services are already established, will no doubt have taken place.





